

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-14, 16, 17 and 20-22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-14, 16, 17, and 20-22, in paragraph 8 of the Office Action of October 5, 2006 ("the Office Action"), under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,272,628 to Koss ("Koss"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

None of the cited references, including Koss, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Koss teaches an algorithm to merge table data (Koss, Abstract). The algorithm creates a mapping list to map source table rows or columns to destination table rows or columns (Koss, col. 4, line 61-col. 5, line 2; col. 5, lines 25-28). Koss does not teach or suggest storing data into a destination table that identifies a source table. Koss therefore does not disclose or suggest a method that includes appending information identifying sources of portions of data to a final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 2, 4, 6-9, and 21 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that a user of Koss could select source table location data from the mapping list to append to the destination spreadsheet (Office Action, p. 5). Applicants respectfully disagree. Koss teaches first receiving a list of source tables selected by the user, and then instantiating mapping lists for each source table (Koss, col. 5, lines 13-23; col. 6, lines 3-9). Therefore, it would be impossible to select source table data from the mapping list as proposed in the Office Action, because the mapping lists are not created until after the source tables are specified. Furthermore, Koss provides no suggestion or motivation to append data into the destination table that identifies a source table, as proposed by the Office Action.

Koss also does not disclose or suggest the use of a graphical control panel, as recited in claim 1. Applicants disagree with the assertion that "a graphical control panel must be present" for the user of Koss to select source tables, categories, and fields (Office Action, p. 4). Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the article "Lotus 1-2-3 For Sun" from the December 1990 ECN No Name Newsletter of Purdue University. The article demonstrates

command-line instructions to perform various spreadsheet tasks, including: importing data from a file (pg. 5, “Problem Solution—Lotus Tasks, step 2); navigating and formatting tables (pg. 5, “Problem Solution—Lotus Tasks, step 3); selecting source and destination regions to copy and to perform arithmetic functions (pg. 5-6, “Problem Solution—Lotus Tasks, steps 5 and 6); and graphing data (pg. 6, “Problem Solution—Lotus Tasks, step 7). Thus, fully functional command-line spreadsheet interfaces were known at the time of Koss, and a graphical control panel would not be necessary to practice the teaching of Koss.

Because Koss does not teach or suggest using a graphical control panel, Koss fails to disclose or suggest a method that includes receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets via a graphical control panel, as recited in claim 1. Koss also fails to disclose or suggest a method that includes receiving, via the graphical control panel, a selection of portions of data from files corresponding to each of the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claims 2, 4, 6-9, and 21 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Further, none of the cited references, including Koss, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 10. As explained previously, Koss does not disclose or suggest storing data into a destination table that identifies a source table. Koss therefore fails to disclose or suggest a software program that includes appending information identifying sources of desired portions of data to a final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 10. Koss also fails to disclose or suggest a software program including a spreadsheet selection procedure for receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets via a graphical control panel, as recited in claim 10. Koss also fails to disclose or suggest a software program that includes a data selection procedure for receiving, via the graphical control panel, a selection of desired portions of data from one or more spreadsheets of the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 10. Thus, claim 10 is allowable. In addition, claim 22 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 10.

Additionally, none of the cited references, including Koss, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. As explained previously, Koss does not disclose or suggest storing data into a destination table that identifies a source table. Koss therefore does not disclose or suggest a system that includes a controller that appends information identifying

sources of desired portions of data to a final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 12. As also explained previously, Koss does not disclose or suggest a graphical control panel. Koss therefore fails to disclose or suggest a system that includes a controller displaying a graphical control panel that includes a spreadsheet selection area for receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets and a custom search module for executing a predefined search to identify desired portions of data, as recited in claim 12. Thus, claim 12 is allowable. In addition, claims 13-14, 16, 17 and 20 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 12.

Claim 18 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 18, in paragraph 8 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss, in view of US Patent No. 5,396,587 by Reed, et al. (“Reed”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As explained previously, Koss does not disclose or suggest a controller appending information identifying sources of desired portions of data to a final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 12. Koss also does not disclose or suggest a controller displaying a graphical control panel that includes a spreadsheet selection area for receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets and a custom search module for executing a predefined search to identify desired portions of data, as recited in claim 12. Reed does not disclose or suggest a controller displaying such a graphical control panel or appending source information to a final report spreadsheet, but rather discloses a display management system that includes means for generating and periodically updating a screen image. *See* Reed, col. 2, ll. 13-24. Thus, the asserted combination of Koss and Reed fails to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. Claim 18 depends from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Thus, claim 18 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12.

Claim 19 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 19, in paragraph 10 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss, in view of US Application Publication No. 2003/0061193 by Anson (“Anson”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As explained previously, Koss does not disclose or suggest a controller appending information identifying sources of desired portions of data to a final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 12. Koss also does not disclose or suggest a controller displaying a graphical control panel that includes a spreadsheet selection area for receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets and a custom search module for receiving a selection of at least a portion of the selected plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 12. Anson does not disclose or suggest a controller displaying such a graphical control panel or appending source information to a final report spreadsheet, but rather discloses a method that uses data filters to generate focused data of interest to a user. *See Anson, abstract.* Thus, the asserted combination of Koss and Anson fails to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. Claim 19 depends from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Thus, claim 19 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12.

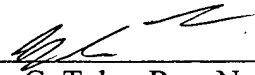
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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